



## EARTH DAY 2015

**Earth Day — 22 April 2015** — marks the 45th anniversary of the first Earth Day. We celebrate Earth Day but also mourn the lack of respect shown for the earth - the savage depletion of its flora and fauna, its resources, fascinating natural landscapes, the entire earth's environment and the struggles of many of its peoples to flourish and live in places they have called "home" since time immemorial. But on this day we pray with hope and intention for all we can do to walk gently on our earth. We are thankful for all those whose work and advocacy preserves our earth and challenges us to be mindful of our precious legacy and urges us to be aware of what needs to be done **NOW**.



**We pause to reflect** on the wonder, variety, individuality and “inter-being” of Earth’s existence in our solar system and universe.

**We stood in awe and wonder at the lunar eclipse** on 4 April 2015, the ‘blood moon’.



### Reflecting on words from our tradition...

What has come into being in him was life and the life that was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

I came that all may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Christ’s resurrection is not an event of the past: it contains a vital power which has permeated the world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force (EG 276)

If you are a Christian, protecting the earth and its environment is part of your identity, not an ideological option. This is our first response to creation: Protect creation, make it grow. (Pope Francis, February 2015)

### And other traditions are mindful of the need to protect Earth

Praise and blame, gain and loss, pleasure and sorrow come and go like wind on earth. To be happy, rest like a giant tree in the midst of them all. - the Buddha

Let the beauty of what you love be what you do. There are a thousand ways to kneel down and kiss the earth. - the poet, Rumi.

**Let us join in thanking** the Source of Life for the gift of Earth

- for revealing creative love from the first flaring forth, when Earth’s story begins, *God of Love and Abiding Faithfulness, we give thanks.*
- for Earth’s continuing evolution from stardust through its 5 billion year story so far, *God of Love and Abiding Faithfulness, we give thanks.*
- for Earth’s ability to create, to heal, to diversify, to adapt, to be intrinsically interconnected, *God of Love and Abiding Faithfulness, we give thanks.*
- for the gifts of water, soil, air, climate, flora and fauna, and the bioregions that developed over millennia, *God of Love and Abiding Faithfulness, we give thanks.*
- for the challenges that Earth has encountered during her long story, and for the creative ways she developed to heal them, *God of Love and Abiding Faithfulness, we give thanks.*

*What do I find challenging in thinking about the earth from the perspective of the new cosmology?*

**Let us pray for new life for Earth where there is darkness**



- Because **stockpiles of nuclear weapons** threaten all life whether or not they are ever used, *help us give life to the world.*
- Because **climate change** already causes massive damage to all life on Earth, *help us give life to the world.*
- Because **mono-crops** and farming with **harmful chemicals** result in inferior food and spoiled soil and water, *help us give life to the world.*
- Because **pollution**, especially from **plastics**, is trashing so much of our planet including our oceans, *help us give life to the world.*
- Because **human greed** exploits humans and other species and resources, *help us give life to the world.*
- Because **so many suffer** from problems caused by, or causing, **environmental damage**, *help us give life to the world.*

**Closing prayer:** *Loving Source of Life, we, being of Earth and blessed with the Spirit living and acting within us, approach this Earth Day in this season of new life with awe and appreciation of our precious planet. We ask that your presence, Divine Energy, within us will empower us to co-create a thriving planet now and into the future. Amen*